From: Carl C. Lochen
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 11:12pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

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Attorney General John Ashcroft
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

As an independent developer and supporter of
Microsoft, I write you in regard to the recent
Microsoft Settlement. After three years of
negotiations, it seems strange that there may even be
more delays in the implementation of this plan. The
process was extremely well thought out and well
monitored throughout. Because of this, the terms that
were reached benefit all involved.

As we go through these economically stressful times,
it is crucial that we support our technology at all
levels. By holding up this settlement, we take a
backseat in the global market. Our entire technology
industry needs to get back to business, and because of
the agreement, we are ready to do so. Let us support
our IT sector and allow the terms to speak for
themselves, including anti-retribution and retaliation
acts, and the sharing of selected intellectual
property.

Splitting up Microsoft

Specifically the non-Windows platform community has
attacked Microsoft for adding to much functionality to
its OS, and therefore stifling competition. They argue
splitting up Microsoft, would make it easier to
compete with Microsoft. This ignores the large amount
of developers and companies that have made available

more than 100 000 programs available on the Windows platform. Splitting up Microsoft, will for them mean disrupting the dynamics of developing cutting edge technology for Windows.

Windows Building blocks

Splitting up Microsoft into pieces, will create smaller companies developing solutions/libraries that will not be included in Windows and therefore be keeping secrets from other independent developers who will have to develop their own incompatible solutions. Splitting up Microsoft, destroys Windows's ability to offer solutions for connecting together building blocks with the latest technology. Solutions that are now incorporated in Windows and documented for everyone, will end up as proprietary solutions outside Windows. Making it less feasible for smaller developers to keep up with the latest in technology.

Microsoft is giving us pre-tested building blocks guaranteed to be interchangeable and compatible with each other. Developers using these building blocks for their own designs, know that their programs will be compatible with combinations of future designs trying to link up with or work together with their designs. Think of the many millions of errors windows is getting rid of for current and future developers of software...

Whenever building blocks are rewritten with new interfaces, previous interface(s) are still available to let older designs work as building blocks change. This is true of COM+ and any of the API's that come with Windows. It beats trying to design applications to hook up to zillions of applications not using support from the OS.

The Internet building blocks

Internet technology built into Windows, assists applications using various Windows technologies in communicating and sharing data with each other over the Internet. This degree of integration between applications/components is only possible by having these technologies built into the platform they are running on. Internet Explorer built into Windows facilitates in building web browsers. Any developer

can build their own Web Browser with their own customized controls. In less than a day they can design their own Web Browser that is equal in power to Internet Explorer. Just download the MFCIE project from Microsoft Developer Network (has been available a couple of years). In less than a day you implement remaining Internet Explorer Functions through the OLE/COM+ interface. In a matter of days any organization can design their own Internet portals that access primarily sites of their own choosing.

Documentation for developing software

Microsoft develops the functionality and the building blocks needed for applications and distributed components to interact with each other on the Windows platform. Microsoft also provides Documentation and Developer information for all developers to take advantage of these features. Preventing Microsoft from freely expanding these features to provide the latest technologies, will damage the industry's ability to develop comprehensive integrated software solutions for the Windows platform. Instead you will end up with incompatible proprietary solutions and a less versatile Windows platform.

I urge you to support our economy at this time, and help this settlement go through as it stands. I thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Carl Lochen

cc: Representative Darrell Issa